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Jeffrey Fairbanks charged with murder of missing infant daughter

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Jeffrey Fairbanks has been charged with Murder and Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death (Level 1 Felony) for the death and disappearance of his infant daughter Janna. The three-month-old child was reported missing by her mother on May 29, 2015.

"Mr. Fairbanks is accused not only in the death of his infant daughter, but is further alleged to have disposed of her body in a way deserved by no one, most certainly not an infant," Prosecutor Curry stated. "The disappearance of Janna Rivera provoked an extensive search under difficult conditions, and we appreciate the work done by officers and those assisting civilians in this investigation."

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in the case, the child's mother reported leaving the infant with Jeffrey Fairbanks on the morning of May 28. Fairbanks returned to the home that night and told the mother that the baby was dead. As further alleged in the probable cause affidavit, Fairbanks admitted to detectives that he put a pillow over the infant to muffle her crying on the day that she died.

When questioned by police on the infant's location, Fairbanks led detectives to a trash dumpster in an apartment complex. Janna's body to date has never been recovered. Subsequent searches resulted in the recovery of a blanket believed to have belonged to the infant.

Fairbanks has been arrested. An initial hearing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. today in Criminal Court 3.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.